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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW
OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
Second session
8-12 May 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

GENERAL REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraph 10 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/80.

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1. As one of the original non-governmental organizations at the Charter Conference in San Francisco 50 years ago and with the largest non-governmental organizations' delegation (49 members in 29 delegations), and as a non-governmental organization holding three Conferences with and about the United Nations this year (two in June and one in October), Rotary International is pleased to submit this statement to the Working Group.

2. Rotary International is largely an operational non-governmental organization, a grass-roots organization dedicated to social and humanitarian work and the promotion of peace, goodwill and international understanding throughout the world, in the east, west, north and south. It has 27,300 clubs in 185 countries and geographical areas with more than 1,200,000 members. It is growing fastest in the developing world.

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* E/AC.70/1995/1.

3. Rotary International, as a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), wishes to associate itself with the statements made by CONGO (see E/AC.70/1995/NGO/2) and the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) (see E/AC.70/1995/NGO/3). Specifically, it agrees with the WFUNA statement concerning the introduction, which is too long, redundant, and somewhat vague and confusing in many places. Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) has served the United Nations and non-governmental organizations well for a quarter of a century. The revisions should be made to last a number of years without reference to specific current agendas of the United Nations and also to allow for other and future agendas.

4. Rotary International also agrees with the WFUNA reservations concerning paragraphs 7, 11, 3, 50 and 51, and the need to strengthen section 10 and reword section 7. It does not understand the limitations in paragraph 19 to only those United Nations bodies mentioned.

5. Again, in paragraph 7, Rotary International calls attention to the fact that most not-for-profit private organizations are not business organizations. Further, it believes that for-profit business organizations have great potential to help the United Nations system and work with the United Nations on most social, economic and humanitarian issues; they should be encouraged to do so.

6. Rotary International supports a category system and also supports option 1 in paragraph 25 as the most practical one. Similarly, Rotary International supports option 1 in section 9, paragraph 58, on increasing membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council.

7. Finally, if the purpose of the review is to broaden Council resolution 1296 to include regional and national non-governmental organizations, which is needed, then the new section 11 should be strengthened, making provisions for enhanced administration facilities and necessary financing to handle the interfacing of non-governmental organizations with the regional commissions, and at the national levels, not only for ongoing work but also for United Nations conferences.